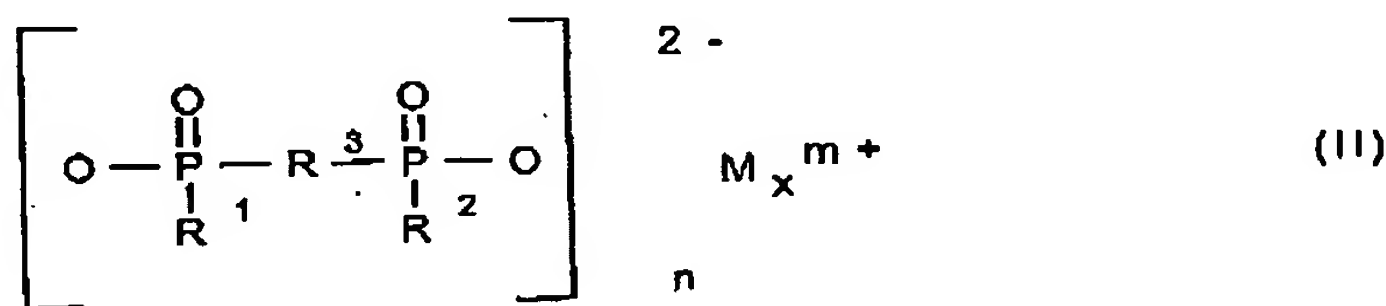
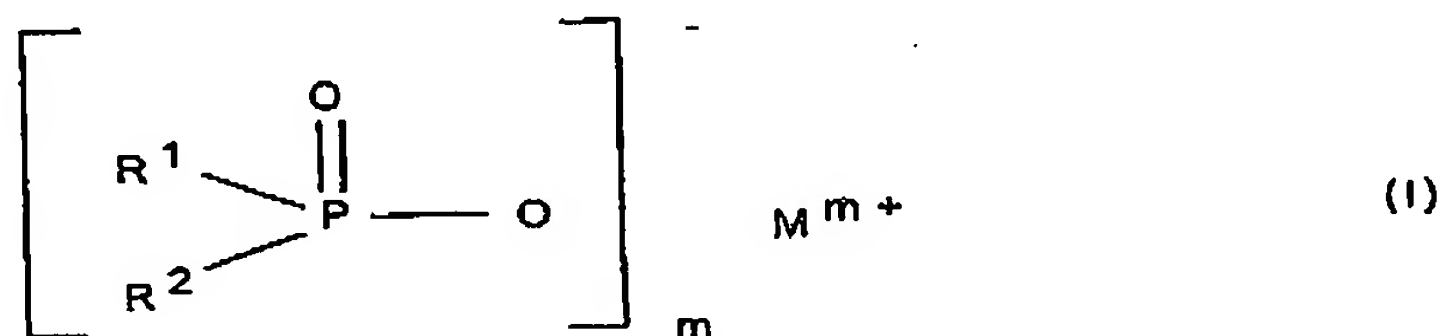


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### Amendments to the Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A fire-protection coating ~~which forms~~ material capable of forming an insulating layer comprising a compound selected from the group consisting of a phosphinic salt of the formula (I) a diphosphinic salt of the formula (II), a mixture of formula (I) and formula (II), a polymer of formula (I), a polymer of formula (II), and a mixture of polymers of formula (I) and formula (II),



where

$\text{R}^1, \text{R}^2$  are identical or different and are  $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_6$ -alkyl, linear or branched and/or aryl;

$\text{R}^3$  is  $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_{10}$ -alkylene, linear or branched,  $\text{C}_6\text{-C}_{10}$ -arylene, -alkylarylene, or -arylalkylene;

$\text{M}$  is Mg, Ca, Al, Sb, Sn, Ge, Ti, Zn, Fe, Zr, Ce, Bi, Sr, Mn, Li, Na, K, or a protonated nitrogen base;

$m$  is from 1 to 4;

$n$  is from 1 to 4;

$x$  is from 1 to 4.

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2. (Currently Amended) The fire-protection coating ~~which forms~~ material capable of forming an insulating layer, as claimed in claim 1, wherein M is calcium, aluminum, or zinc.
3. (Currently Amended) The fire-protection coating ~~which forms~~ material capable of forming an insulating layer, as claimed in claim 1, wherein R<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>2</sup> are identical or different and are C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkyl, linear or branched, or phenyl.
4. (Currently Amended) The fire-protection coating ~~which forms~~ capable of forming an insulating layer, as claimed in claim 1, wherein R<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>2</sup> are identical or different and are methyl, ethyl, n-propyl, isopropyl, n-butyl, tert-butyl, n-pentyl or phenyl.
5. (Currently Amended) The fire-protection coating ~~which forms~~ capable of forming an insulating layer, as claimed in claim 1, wherein R<sup>3</sup> is methylene, ethylene, n-propylene, isopropylene, n-butylene, tert-butylene, n-pentylene, n-octylene, n-dodecylene, phenylene, naphthylene, methylphenylene, ethylphenylene, tert-butylphenylene, methylnaphthylene, ethylnaphthylene, tert-butyl naphthylene, phenylmethylene, phenylethylene, phenylpropylene or phenylbutylene.
6. (Currently Amended) A fire-protection coating ~~which forms~~ material capable of forming an insulating layer, comprising:
  - from 5 to 30 parts by weight of a film-forming binder,
  - from 10 to 50 parts by weight of a substance which forms a foam layer,
  - from 5 to 25 parts by weight of a substance which forms carbon,
  - from 5 to 25 parts by weight of a blowing agent, and
  - from 10 to 50 parts by weight of at least one auxiliary or additive, and
  - from 1 to 10 parts by weight of aluminium diethylphosphinate.

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7. (Currently Amended) A fire-protection coating ~~which forms~~ material capable of forming an insulating layer, as claimed in claim 6, comprising:
- from 10 to 25 parts by weight of ~~a~~ the film-forming binder,
  - from 15 to 40 parts by weight of ~~a~~ the substance which forms a foam layer,
  - from 7 to 15 parts by weight of ~~a~~ the substance which forms carbon,
  - from 7 to 15 parts by weight of ~~a~~ the blowing agent, and
  - from 20 to 40 parts by weight of the at least one auxiliary or additive, and
  - from 2 to 5 parts by weight of the aluminium diethylphosphinate.
8. (Currently Amended) The fire-protection coating ~~which forms~~ material capable of forming an insulating layer, as claimed in claim 6, wherein the film-forming binder is selected from the group consisting of:
- homopolymers based on vinyl acetate,
  - copolymers based on vinyl acetate, ethylene, and vinyl chloride,
  - copolymers based on vinyl acetate and on the vinyl ester of a long-chain, branched carboxylic acid,
  - copolymers based on vinyl acetate and di-n-butyl malate,
  - copolymers based on vinyl acetate and esters of acrylic acid,
  - copolymers based on styrene and esters of acrylic acid,
  - copolymers based on esters of acrylic acid,
  - vinyltoluene/acryl copolymer,
  - styrene/acrylate polymers,
  - vinyl/acrylate copolymers, and
  - self-crosslinking polyurethane dispersions.
9. (Currently Amended) The fire-protection coating ~~which forms~~ material capable of forming an insulating layer, as claimed in claim 6, wherein the substance

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which forms a foam layer is selected from the group consisting of ammonium salts of phosphoric acids and polyphosphoric acids.

10. (Currently Amended) The fire-protection coating ~~which forms material~~ capable of forming an insulating layer, as claimed in claim 6, wherein the substance which forms carbon is a carbohydrate.

11. (Currently Amended) The fire-protection coating ~~which forms material~~ capable of forming an insulating layer, as claimed in claim ~~40~~ 6, wherein the substance which forms carbon carbohydrate is selected from the group consisting of pentaerythritol, dipentaerythritol, tripentaerythritol and polycondensates of pentaerythritol.

12. (Currently Amended) The fire-protection coating ~~which forms material~~ capable of forming an insulating layer, as claimed in claim 6, wherein the at least one auxiliary or additive is selected from the group consisting of glass fibers, mineral fibers, kaolin, talc, aluminum oxide, aluminum hydroxide, magnesium hydroxide, precipitated silicas, silicates and pulverulent celluloses.

13. (Currently Amended) The fire-protection coating ~~which forms material~~ capable of forming an insulating layer, as claimed in claim 6, wherein the blowing agent is selected from the group consisting of melamine, guanidine, their salts, and ~~dicyandiamides~~ dicyandiamide.

14. (Currently Amended) The fire-protection coating ~~which forms material~~ capable of forming an insulating layer, as claimed in claim 13, wherein the melamine salt is selected from the group consisting of melamine phosphate, melamine cyanurate, melamine borate, melamine silicate, and wherein the guanidine is guanidine phosphate.

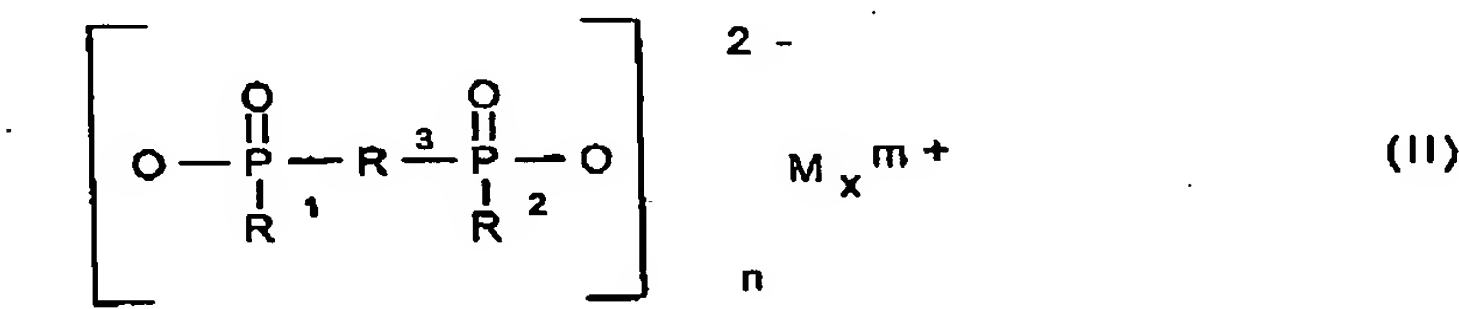
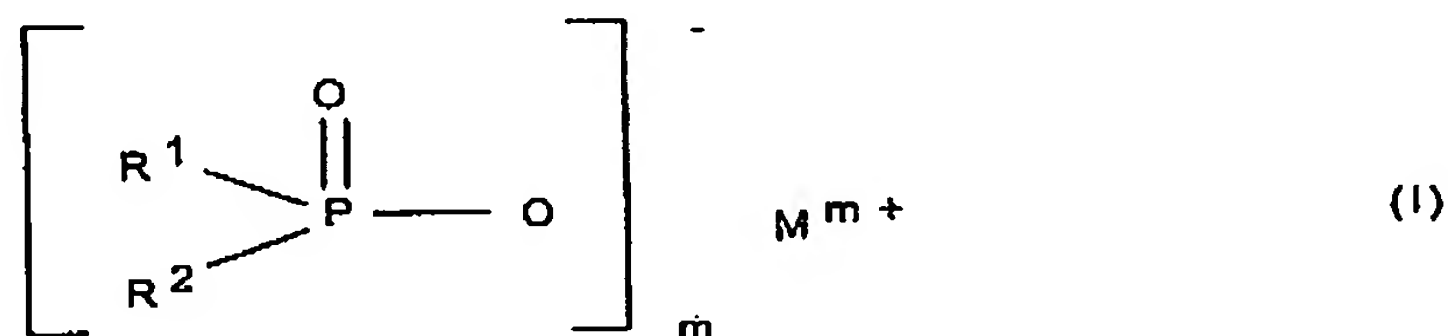
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15. (Currently Amended) The fire-protection coating ~~which forms material~~ capable of forming an insulating layer, as claimed in claim 6, further comprising melamine polyphosphate.

16. (Currently Amended) An article comprising ~~the a~~ fire protection coating ~~which forms an insulating layer as claimed in claim 4~~ capable of forming an insulating layer, wherein the insulating layer comprises a compound selected from the group consisting of a phosphinic salt of the formula (I) a diphosphinic salt of the formula (II), a mixture of formula (I) and formula (II), a polymer of formula (I), a polymer of formula (II), and a mixture of polymers of formula (I) and formula (II).



where

R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>2</sup> are identical or different and are C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkyl, linear or branched and aryl;

R<sup>3</sup> is C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>10</sub>-alkylene, linear or branched, C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>10</sub>-arylene, -alkylarylene, or -arylalkylene;

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M is Mg, Ca, Al, Sb, Sn, Ge, Ti, Zn, Fe, Zr, Ce, Bi, Sr, Mn, Li, Na, K, or a  
protonated nitrogen base;

m is from 1 to 4;

n is from 1 to 4;

x is from 1 to 4.

17. (Previously Presented) The article as claimed in claim 16, wherein the article is selected from the group consisting of a steel article, ceiling, wall, cable, and pipe.

18. (Currently Amended) An article comprising the fire-protection coating which ~~forms material capable of forming~~ an insulating layer as claimed in claim 6.

19. (Previously Presented) The article as claimed in claim 18, wherein the article is selected from the group consisting of a steel article, ceiling, wall, cable, and pipe.

20. (New) A fire-protection coating material capable of forming an insulating layer comprising aluminum diethylphosphinate.

21. (New) The fire-protection coating material capable of forming an insulating layer of claim 20, further comprising:

from 10 to 50 parts by weight of a substance which forms a foam layer,  
from 5 to 25 parts by weight of a substance which forms carbon,  
from 5 to 25 parts by weight of a blowing agent, and  
from 10 to 50 parts by weight of at least one auxiliary or additive, and  
from 1 to 10 parts by weight of the aluminum diethylphosphinate.

22. (New) A fire-protection coating material capable of forming an insulating layer comprising zinc diethylphosphinate.

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23. (New) The fire-protection coating material capable of forming an insulating layer of claim 20, further comprising:

from 10 to 50 parts by weight of a substance which forms a foam layer,  
from 5 to 25 parts by weight of a substance which forms carbon,  
from 5 to 25 parts by weight of a blowing agent, and  
from 10 to 50 parts by weight of at least one auxiliary or additive, and  
from 1 to 10 parts by weight of the zinc diethylphosphinate.

24. (New) An article comprising the fire-protection coating material capable of forming an insulating layer as claimed in claim 1.

25. (New) An article comprising the fire-protection coating material capable of forming an insulating layer as claimed in claim 20.

25. (New) An article comprising the fire-protection coating material capable of forming an insulating layer as claimed in claim 22.